N°. 15. *Friday, February* 10.

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Dixit, ab Hoſte petam: Vultus avertite veſtros,
Si quis Amicus adeſt: Et Gorgonis extulit ora.
Ovid.

IT is with great Pleaſure that I ſee a Race of Female-Patriots ſpringing up in this Iſland. The faireſt among the Daughters of *Great-Britain* no longer confine their Cares to a Domeſtick Life, but are grown anxious for the Welfare of their Countrey, and ſhew themſelves good Stateſwomen as well as good Houſewives.

Our She-Confederates keep pace with us in quaſhing that Rebellion which had begun to ſpread itſelf among Part of the fair Sex. If the Men who are true to their King and Countrey have taken *Preſton* and *Perth*, the Ladies have poſſeſs'd themſelves of the Opera and the Play-Houſe with as little Oppoſition or Bloodſhed. The Non-reſiſting Women, like their Brothers in the *Highlands*, think no Poſt tenable againſt an Army that makes ſo fine an Appearance; and dare not look them in the Face, when they are drawn up in Battel-array.

As an Inſtance of the Chearfulneſs in our fair Fellow-Subjects to oppoſe the Deſigns of the Pretender, I did but ſuggeſt in one of my former Papers, *That the Fan might be made uſe of with good Succeſs againſt Popery, by exhibiting the Corruptions of the Church of* Rome *in various Figures*; when immediately they took the Hint, and

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and have ſince had frequent Conſultations upon ſeveral Ways and Methods *to make the Fan uſeful.* They have unanimouſly agreed upon the following Reſolutions, which are indeed very ſuitable to Ladies who are at the ſame Time the moſt Beautiful and the moſt Loyal of their Sex. To hide their Faces behind the Fan, when they obſerve a *Tory* gazing upon 'em. Never to peep through it, but in Order to pick out Men, whoſe Principles make them worth the Conqueſt. To return no other Anſwer to a *Tory*'s Addreſſes, than by counting the Sticks of it all the while he is talking to them. To avoid dropping it in the Neighbourhood of a Malecontent, that he may not have an Opportunity of taking it up. To ſhew their Diſbelief of any *Jacobite* Story by a Flirt of it. To fall a Fanning themſelves, when a Tory comes into one of their Aſſemblies, as being diſorder'd at the Sight of him.

Theſe are the Uſes by which every Fan may in the Hands of a fine Woman become ſerviceable to the Publick. But they have at preſent under Conſideration, certain Fans of a Proteſtant Make, that they may have a more extenſive Influence, and raiſe an Abhorrence of Popery in a whole Crowd of Beholders: For they intend to let the World ſee what Party they are of, by Figures and Deſigns upon theſe Fans; as the Knights Errant uſed to diſtinguiſh themſelves by Devices on their Shields.

There are ſeveral Sketches of Pictures which have been already preſented to the Ladies for their Approbation, and out of which ſeveral have made their Choice. A pretty young Lady will very ſoon appear with a Fan, which has on it a Nunnery of lively black-Eyed Veſtals, who

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are endeavouring to creep out at the Grates. Another has a Fan mounted with a fine Paper, on which is repreſented a Groupe of People upon their Knees very devoutly worſhipping an old Ten-Penny Nail. A certain Lady of great Learning has choſen for her Device the Council of *Trent*; and another, who has a good Satyrical Turn, has filled her Fan with the Figure of a huge tawdry Woman, repreſenting the Whore of *Babylon*; which ſhe is reſolved to ſpread full in the Face of any Siſter-Diſputant, whoſe Arguments have a Tendency to Popery. The following Deſigns are already executed on ſeveral Mountings. The Ceremony of the Holy Pontiff opening the Mouth of a Cardinal in a full Conſiſtory. An old Gentleman with a Triple Crown upon his Head, and big with Child, being the Portrait of Pope *Joan*. Biſhop *Bonner* purchaſing great Quantities of Faggots and Bruſh-Wood, for the Converſion of Hereticks. A Figure reaching at a Sceptre with one Hand, and holding a Chaplet of Beads in the other: With a diſtant View of *Smithfield*.

When our Ladies make their Zeal thus viſible upon their Fans, and, every Time they open them, diſplay an Error of the Church of *Rome*, it cannot but have a good Effect, by ſhewing the Enemies of our preſent Eſtabliſhment the Folly of what they are contending for. At leaſt, every One muſt allow that Fans are much more innocent Engines for propagating the Proteſtant Religion, than Racks, Wheels, Gibbets, and the like Machines, which are made Uſe of for the Advancement of the Roman-Catholick. Beſides, as every Lady will of courſe ſtudy her Fan, ſhe will be a perfect Miſtreſs of the Controverſy at leaſt in one Point of Popery; and

and as her Curioſity will put her upon the Peruſal of every other Fan that is faſhionable, I doubt not but in a very little Time there will ſcarce be a Woman of Quality in *Great-Britain*, who would not be an Over-Match for an *Iriſh* Prieſt.

The beautiful Part of this Iſland, whom I am proud to number amongſt the moſt candid of my Readers, will likewiſe do well to reflect, that our Diſpute at preſent concerns our Civil as well as Religious Rights. I ſhall therefore only offer it to their Thoughts as a Point that highly deſerves their Conſideration, Whether the Fan may not alſo be made Uſe of with Regard to our Political Conſtitution. As a Free-Holder, I would not have them confine their Cares for us as we are Proteſtants, but at the ſame Time have an Eye to our Happineſs as we are *Britons*. In this Caſe they wou'd give a new Turn to the Minds of their Countreymen, if they wou'd exhibit on their Fans the ſeveral Grievances of a Tyrannical Government. Why might not an Audience of *Muley Iſhmael*, or a *Turk* dropping his Handkerchief in his Seraglio, be proper Subjects to expreſs their Abhorrence both of Deſpotick Power, and of Male Tyranny? Or if they have a Fancy for Burleſque, what wou'd they think of a *French* Cobler cutting Shoes for ſeveral of his Fellow-Subjects out of an old Apple-Tree? On the contrary, a fine Woman, who wou'd maintain the Dignity of her Sex, might bear a String of Gally-Slaves, dragging their Chains the whole Breadth of her Fan; and at the ſame Time, to celebrate her own Triumphs, might order every Slave to be drawn with the Face of one of her Admirers.

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